

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please cancel Claims 13 to 18 and 26 to 28 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please add new Claims 32 to 35 and amend Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 12, 19 to 21, 24 and 29 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for multicasting changes made in a directory server, comprising the steps of:

establishing plural multicast groups for corresponding to a respective plurality of change categories, wherein each multicast group comprises at least one member; and

~~submitting change information for multicasting responsive to a change being made in the directory server, the change information being submitted to the at least one member which belongs to a selected one of the plural multicast groups, for multicast by the selected group, in correspondence~~ corresponding to the change category of the change made in the directory server.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the change information is submitted to the multicast group[[s]] utilizing a connectionless protocol.

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3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of change information categories ~~comprise~~ correspond to an add, delete, modify or search change[[s]].

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein changes made in the directory server are performed utilizing a Lightweight Directory Server Protocol.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein change information is submitted for multicast by a plug-in that extends capabilities of the directory server.

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6. (Original) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the plug-in generates information packets based on changes made in the directory server, and submits the information packets to the multicast groups.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a client registers with at least one of the plural multicast groups in order to obtain the change information ~~from~~ corresponding to each multicast group for which the client has registered.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the client registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining directory server change information, comprising the steps of:

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registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups,

each of the plurality of multicast groups being established for corresponding to a respective plurality of change categories; and

receiving a multicast transmission from ~~one of the registered groups~~ a directory server, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to at least one member which belongs to the multicast group in response corresponding to the change category of a change made in the directory server.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein the member registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

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11. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein the member registers with at least one multicast group corresponding to add, delete, modify or search change categories.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for multicasting changes made in a directory server wherein plural multicast groups for corresponding to a respective plurality of change categories are established, comprising:

a processor for executing executable process steps; and

a memory medium storing executable process steps, wherein the executable process steps comprise (a) generating change information responsive to a change being made in the directory server, and (b) submitting the change information to at least one member which belongs to a selected one of the plural multicast groups ~~for multicast by the~~

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~~selected group in correspondence corresponding to the change category of the change made in the directory server.~~

13. to 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps for multicasting changes made in a directory server, wherein plural multicast groups for corresponding to a respective plurality of change categories are established, the computer-executable process steps comprising:

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generating change information responsive to a change being made in the directory server; and

submitting the change information to at least one member which belongs to a selected one of the plural multicast groups for multicast by the selected group, in correspondence corresponding to the change category of the change made in the directory server.

20. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein the change information is submitted to the multicast group[[s]] utilizing a connectionless protocol.

21. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of change information categories ~~comprise~~ correspond to add, delete, modify or search.

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22. (Original) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein changes made in the directory server are performed utilizing a Lightweight Directory Server Protocol.

23. (Original) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein the process steps comprise a plug-in for extending capabilities of the directory server.

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24. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein a client registers with at least one of the plural multicast groups in order to obtain the change information ~~from~~ corresponding to each multicast group for which the client has registered.

25. (Original) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 24, wherein the client registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

26. to 28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) Computer executable process steps for obtaining directory server change information, comprising:

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registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups,
each of the plurality of multicast groups being established for corresponding to a respective
plurality of change categories; and

receiving a multicast transmission from ~~one of the registered groups~~ a
directory server, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to at
least one member which belongs to the multicast group in response corresponding to the
change category of a change made in the directory server.

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30. (Original) Computer executable process steps according to Claim 29,
wherein the member registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory
servers.

31. (Original) Computer executable process steps according to Claim 28,
wherein the member registers with at least one multicast group corresponding to add,
delete, modify or search change categories.

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32. (New) A method for providing notification of changes made in a
directory server, comprising the steps of:

establishing plural groups corresponding to a respective plurality of change
categories that can be made in the directory server, wherein each group comprises at least
one member; and

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sending change information to the at least one member which belongs to a selected one of the plural groups corresponding to the change category of a change made in the directory server.

33. (New) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the plurality of change categories correspond to different directory operations.

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34. (New) Computer-executable process steps for providing notification of changes made in a directory server, the process steps comprising the steps of:

establishing plural groups corresponding to a respective plurality of change categories that can be made in the directory server, wherein each group comprises at least one member; and

sending change information to the at least one member which belongs to a selected one of the plural groups corresponding to the change category of a change made in the directory server.

35. (New) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 34, wherein the plurality of change categories correspond to different directory operations.